

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HANS-ULRICH STAUBER

Serial No.: *to be assigned*

Examiner: *to be assigned*

Filed: 5 November 2003

Art Unit: *to be assigned*

For: A DEVICE FOR COLLECTING AND PROCESSING FOLDED PRINTED PRODUCTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents

P.O.Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, and §§1.97 and 1.98 as amended, Applicant cites and provides copies of the following art references:

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,605,213 to Hechler, entitled *APPARATUS FOR CONTINUOUS HANDLING OF FOLDED PAPER PRODUCTS*, issued on August 12, 1986;
2. Swiss Patent No. 667621 to Heinz Boss, entitled *GATHER-STITCHERS*, issued on 31 October 1988.
3. Swiss Patent No. 645074 to Jacques Meier, entitled *METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING MULTI-SHEET PRINTED PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES*, issued on 14 September 1984;
4. Swiss Patent No. 686078 to Jörg Meier, entitled *DEVICE FOR STAPLING SUPERPOSED PRINTED SHEETS OF THE LEAF TYPE LAID ON SUCCESSIVE SUPPORTS OF A ROTARY CONVEYOR*, issued on 29 December 1995. This patent

corresponds to European Patent Publication No. 0618865 also listed hereinbelow.

5. European Patent Publication No. 0566531 to Jörg Meier, entitled *DEVICE FOR GATHERING AND SUBSEQUENTLY STITCHING FOLDED SHEETLIKE PRINTED MATTER*, published on 20 October 1993;
6. European Patent Publication No. 0618865 to Jörg Meier, entitled *DEVICE FOR STAPLING SUPERPOSED PRINTED SHEETS OF THE LEAF TYPE LAID ON SUCCESSIVE SUPPORTS OF A ROTARY CONVEYOR*, published on 12 October 1994. This patent publication corresponds to the above-listed Swiss patent, CH-686078.
7. European Patent Publication No. 0399317 to Egon Hänsch *et al.*, entitled *APPARATUS FOR GATHERING STITCHING FOLDED PRINTED SHEETS*, published on 28 November 1990;
8. European Patent Publication No. 0681979 to Erwin Müller *et al.*, entitled *DEVICE FOR HANDLING PRINTED PRODUCTS*, published on 15 November 1995;
9. European Patent Publication No. 0675005 to Walter Reist, entitled *APPARATUS FOR THE ADHESIVE BINDING OF PRINTED PRODUCTS*, published on 4 October 1995;
10. European Patent Publication No. 0546326 to Jacques Meier, entitled *APPARATUS FOR WIRE-STAPLING MULTI-COMPONENT PRINTED PRODUCTS*, published on 16 June 1993; and
11. European Patent Publication No. 0606555 to Hans-Ulrich Stauber, entitled *GATHERING AND STITCHING MACHINE FOR PRINTED PRODUCTS CONSISTING OF FOLDED PRINTED SHEETS*, published on 20 July 1994.

Hechler '213 relates to an apparatus for further handling of the folded products produced in the folding apparatus of a rotary printing machine including a device for opening the folded products.

Boss '621 relates to machines for making brochures and like accumulations of folded sheets. Machines to which this patent pertains include those known as gather-stitchers wherein one or more

staples are used to connect the backs of accumulated folded sheets to each other.

Meier '074 relates to a method and apparatus for forming multi-sheet printed products, especially newspapers and magazines, with which multi-sheet printed products are formed in such a way that a multiplicity of zig-zag configured folded webs aligned with respect to one another are deposited upon one another.

Meier '078 and '354 disclose a device for stapling superposed printed products laid on a conveyor with successive spaced supports, which leads past a stapling machine with a plurality of rotating stapling heads operating in synchronism with the supports, whereby the rotary paths of the oppositely arranged stapling heads and the supports form a common section in the region where they are closest together on which the stapling heads or the supports are deflected from the predetermined rotary path.

Meier '531 discloses a method and an arrangement for collecting and subsequently stitching folded sheet-like printed products. The method includes regularly feeding printed products to a conveying track. The arrangement has a plurality of supports for placing the printed products thereon, wherein the supports extend transversely of the conveying direction and are spaced apart in conveying direction. At least one feeder station is provided for the supports. A stitching apparatus is arranged in front of the end of the conveyor track. The conveyor track is driven by a bending means which engages the supports.

Häensch '317 pertains to a method and apparatus for collecting and stapling folded printed sheet, which simplifies a structure and enhances processing capacity by revolving a stapling head along a completed moving path passing by a wire piece feeder at the same speed as a stand, and allowing the same to run along the revolving path part of the stand together with the stand in one region of the moving path.

Müller *et al.* '979 discloses an apparatus for processing printed products, with which printed products are fed, from feeding sections, to the processing drum and deposited in a straddling manner on the wall elements or on printed products which have already been deposited thereon. As the processing drum revolves, the printed products are passed onto a circulating conveyor to carry out processing steps on the printed products or to add additional printed products or inserts. The printed

products are then fed to the other feeding sections of the processing drum, where additional printed products are added. A removal conveyor for receiving and transporting the finished products away is located at the removal section of the processing drum.

Reist '005 discloses an apparatus for the adhesive binding which includes a plurality of receiving parts which are arranged one behind the other in a circulation direction. A printed product is introduced at a feed location in each receiving part. The receiving parts are driven continuously in the circulation direction, and the printed products are machined upon being transported past a plurality of machining stations. The machining stations necessary for the adhesive binding are arranged one behind the other. The adhesively bound finished products are removed, in a discharge region, from the receiving parts in order to be further transported.

Meier '326 discloses an apparatus for wire-stapling multi-component printed products, with which the stitching or stapling heads, which act together in a stitching zone with the supports that carry printed products to be wire-stitched, have a circular orbit. The stitching heads are guided so as to maintain their more or less vertical position during their orbit. Within the stitching zone, each stitching head is approximately aligned with its respective support and is in the preferred position for driving the staples into the printed products. When the stitching heads encounter the supports, they are pushed back radially inward against the resistance of compression springs. This causes a slight flattening in the orbit of the stitching heads in the stitching zone and slightly prolongs the time available for the stitching heads to act together with the supports in the stitching process.

Stauber '555 discloses a rotary gathering stapler for folded printed sheets, in which the stapling heads and the rests are aligned with each other over an entire rotational region. Alignment over an entire rotational region increases the operational reliability, even at an elevated rotational speed and makes it possible to work with different qualities of wire and/or lengths of wire and correspondingly different staple dimensions with minimal setting work.

The citation of the foregoing references is not intended to constitute an assertion that other or more relevant art does not exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to make a wide-ranging and thorough search of the relevant art.

No fee is incurred by this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,


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	APPLICANT HANS-ULRICH STAUBER	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	4,605,213	8/86	Hechler			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						TRANSLATION	
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	YES	NO
	CH-667621	10/88	Switzerland				
	CH-645074	9/84	Switzerland				
	CH-686078	12/95	Switzerland				
	EP-0566531	10/93	European Patent Office				
	EP-0618865	10/94	European Patent Office				
	EP-0399317	11/90	European Patent Office				
	EP-0681979	11/95	European Patent Office				
	EP-0675005	10/95	European Patent Office				
	EP-0546326	6/93	European Patent Office				
	EP-0606555	7/94	European Patent Office				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	

EXAMINER:	DATE CONSIDERED:
<small>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>	